



The Town Crier

A Newsletter from the Town of Warrenton



First Night Warrenton

Spend New Year's Eve with Families and Friends!

By Roger Martella

After Santa Claus leaves, Gumdrop Square closes and the busy holiday season ends, there's still one special Warrenton tradition where friends, families and neighbors welcome in the new year together. It's called First Night Warrenton, a wonderful celebration of the arts that is held in a dozen indoor locations around Old Town Warrenton. It's an affordable, family-friendly way to bring in 2009.

Warrenton is very fortunate to have the support of the Bluemont organization orchestrating First Night Warrenton on New Year's Eve. Warrenton is rumored to be perhaps the smallest community in the nation with First Night festivities. However, the quality and variety of performances is second to none.

This year Bluemont has organized over 50 wonderful performances at more than 10 indoor locations in downtown Warrenton, including jazz, classical music, puppet shows, bluegrass, folk music, magicians and much more. At midnight, First Night concludes with a Grand Illumination at the Courthouse. Everyone will receive a candle and sing in the New Year as the old courthouse bell rings at midnight. This is a great family-friendly, alcohol-free way to literally ring in the New Year. And with Main Street closed to traffic, and happy crowds braving the brisk winter weather on foot to celebrate, it's also a great opportunity to enjoy and appreciate Warrenton's timeless sense of place.

First Night Warrenton promises to be a very affordable, very special evening for you and your family. Admission is



\$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors, and \$3 for kids 3-12. There is no charge for kids two and under. If you have a large family, take advantage of the special family rate of \$25, which gets parents and kids in together for one price.

There are wonderful sponsorship opportunities for local businesses and civic organizations at this popular non-profit community event. Contact Becky Crouch, Warrenton Visitor Center, at (540) 341-0988 (crouchbj@yahoo.com), or Peter Dunning at Bluemont, (540) 338-4640 (peter@bluemont.org).

And we're also looking for volunteers -- individuals, families and civic groups. Please contact Ann Martella at (540) 341-0260 (annmartella@verizon.net) if you'd like to help out.

For more information about First Night Warrenton visit www.bluemont.org. ■

Farmer's Market Reports Best Season Yet

Maybe it's the economy, or perhaps the quality of the products. Or it could just be the desire to support local producers. But Warrenton's Farmers Market vendors are



thrilled to report that they had an extra busy 2008 season, supplying local shoppers with fresh fruits and vegetables, homemade baked goods, and a wide variety of new products such as beeswax candles, soaps and fresh cut flowers.

The Farmer's Market vendors hope that you had a chance to visit them on the two days a week they were open all through the warm months. They hope you enjoyed the friendly, down home, open-air atmosphere that makes the Warrenton Farmer's Markets such a success.

Before the vendors take a well-deserved deep breath, get some rest, and start all over again for next season, they'd like to say "thank you" for your support. They look forward to seeing you and serving you at the Market again next April. ■

Have An Old Town Holiday

It's time to experience the splendor and the tradition of Christmas in Old Town Warrenton. Stroll down Main Street each Friday night in December and you'll enjoy carolers, orchestras, choirs, merchant open houses, a live nativity, food trolleys with hot cocoa and fresh roasted chestnuts, and horse drawn hayrides. And the crown jewel of Christmas in Warrenton is the award-winning Gumdrop Square and Santa's Secret Shop.

Come and experience Christmas in true Old Town fashion. Festivities begin Friday, December 5th at 6:00 PM with the arrival of Santa, the lighting of Old Town and the opening of Gumdrop Square (named as a top-20 event in the Southeast.)

Friday, December 5, 6:00 PM

- Lighting of the Mosby Museum
- Illumination walk and Santa's arrival
- Gumdrop Square Opens: 7:00 – 9:00 PM
- Horse drawn hayrides; refreshments; shops open late!
- Live nativity provided by Heritage Presbyterian Church
- Carolers; entertainment

Saturday, December 6

- Jingle Bell Run, 8:30 AM
- 5-K Family Fun Run and Walk to benefit the Verdun Adventure Center (*call 540-341-1922 for more information*)
- Main Street Christmas Parade, 10:00 AM, begins at 5th and Main Streets (*call 571-228-5937 or warrentonparade@gmail.com for more information*)
- Gumdrop Square, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- Live nativity provided by Heritage Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 7

- Gumdrop Square, 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Friday, December 12

- Gumdrop Square, 6:00 – 9:00 PM
- Horse drawn hayrides; refreshments; shops open late!
- Live nativity provided by Heritage Presbyterian Church
- Carolers; entertainment

Saturday, December 13

- Gumdrop Square, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Sunday, December 14

- Gumdrop Square, 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Friday, December 19

- Gumdrop Square, 6:00 – 9:00 PM
- Horse drawn hayrides; refreshments; shops open late!
- Live nativity provided by Heritage Presbyterian Church
- Carolers; entertainment

Saturday, December 20

- Gumdrop Square, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Sunday, December 21

- Gumdrop Square, 1:00 – 3:00 PM

For more information on Christmas in Old Town and Gumdrop Square, please contact the Partnership for Warrenton office at (540) 349-8606. ■

Ho, Ho, Ho!



Christmas Tree Collection Scheduled

Most people haven't even put up their tree yet, and here we are telling you how to dispose of it after the holidays! We're not trying to be Scroogy; we just want to let you know that the best way to get rid of that tree is to let Town crews pick it up for recycling.

Town crews will start picking up Christmas trees the week of January 5-9, 2009. Town residents should place their trees at the street line by 8:00 AM on Monday, January 5th. Trees will be collected throughout the week, and it's too difficult to say which day crews will do your street. So make sure yours is out the first day.

Trees not at the street line will not be picked up. These trees are fed through a chipper and turned into useful mulch, so it is critical that all stands, wood, wire, nails, decorations and tinsel be removed.

If you have any questions call Public Works at (540) 347-1858. ■



Holiday Refuse Schedule

Christmas, December 25

Monday, 12/22/08 – Regular refuse collection

Tuesday, 12/23/08 – Regular refuse collection

Wednesday, 12/24/08 – Recycling collections (blue bags, cardboard and newspaper)

Thursday, 12/25/08 – Holiday; no refuse collection

Friday, 12/26/08 – Thursday and Friday's refuse collections

New Year's Day, January 1

Monday, 12/29/08 – Regular refuse collection

Tuesday, 12/30/08 – Regular refuse collection

Wednesday, 12/31/08 – Recycling collections (blue bags, cardboard and newspaper)

Thursday, 1/1/09 – Holiday; no refuse collection

Friday, 1/2/09 – Thursday and Friday's refuse collections

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 19

Monday, 1/19/09 – Holiday; no refuse collection

Tuesday, 1/20/09 – Mondays and Tuesday's refuse collections

Wednesday, 1/21/09 – Recycling collections (blue bags, cardboard and newspaper)

Thursday, 1/22/09 – Regular refuse collection

Friday, 1/23/09 – Regular refuse collection

Presidents Day, February 16

Monday, 2/16/09 – Holiday; no refuse collection

Tuesday, 2/17/09 – Mondays and Tuesday's refuse collections

Wednesday, 2/18/09 – Recycling collections (blue bags, cardboard and newspaper)

Thursday, 2/19/09 – Regular refuse collection

Friday, 2/20/09 – Regular refuse collection

Schedules are subject to change; please check local newspapers. There will be a refuse truck available during the holidays at the Public Works Facility, 360 Falmouth Street, for anyone wishing to dispose of any excess trash. ■

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU FROM THE
TOWN OF WARRENTON**



BBBBBBBBBaby, It's Cold Outside!

Winter = cold, and cold = snow and ice. While these wonders of nature can be beautiful to look at, they can also present a safety hazard for drivers and pedestrians. That's why the Town of Warrenton takes snow and ice pretty seriously. And that's why it's always a good idea to review the Town's "no-no" list in regard to these frosty substances.

Most of us are good neighbors; we don't need to be told to look out for the safety of others. But just in case the snow makes you grumpy, and being grumpy makes you forget your duty, the Town does require your participation in keeping our walkways safe for everyone.

Those who like to see everything in writing can consult Section 14.5 of the Code of the Town of Warrenton -- "Disposition of Snow, Ice, etc." For the rest of us, it's easier just to say that we all have to do our part to make sure snow and ice are cleared in a timely fashion so that folks don't slip, fall, get hurt, end up in the ER, get grumpy themselves!

The Code section basically says that all residents and businesses have to clear snow and ice off sidewalks and footways within six hours after the snow has ceased falling. If the snow falls during the night or on a Sunday, you get a little latitude -- you have till 12:00 noon the following day. In the case of ice, there's even a little more latitude. If you can't clear ice or sleet without putting your own safety at risk, then you can cover it with sand, ashes or some other substance that will render it safe for foot travel.

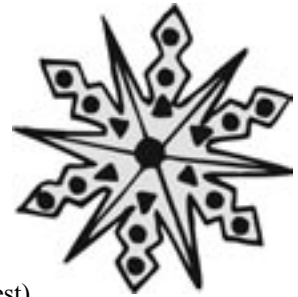
The Code also specifies that if a house or lot is unoccupied, it's the duty of the owner (or owner's agent) to have the snow or ice removed from his sidewalk or footway. In other words, if you own it... well, you own the responsibility, too.

When it comes to snow and ice on the sidewalks, a little common sense and the Golden Rule go a long way. Code section or no Code section, most people just do the right thing without being asked. But if you don't, you should know that failure to do your civic duty in regards to snow and ice is considered a class 4 misdemeanor...with fines (and humiliation) associated. And every six hours that the snow or ice is allowed to remain in violation of the Code requirements constitutes a separate offense. By the way, you might also get fined if you remove the snow or ice and deposit it on any street or sideway. That's another no-no.

Snow Emergency Routes

The Streets listed below are designated as Snow Emergency Routes. That means that it is unlawful for any person or business to park a vehicle on any of these streets during snow emergencies. And, vehicles that are stalled, stuck, parked or abandoned on any of these streets during a snow emergency may be removed by the police at the owner's expense.

Alexandria Pike
Bear Wallow Road
Blackwell Road
Broadview Avenue
Culpeper Street
Falmouth Street
Frost Avenue
Lee Highway
Main Street
Shirley Avenue (East and West)
Waterloo Road
Waterloo Street
Winchester Street



During snowstorms, when the Town's trucks are out spreading chemicals or plowing, they start with the arterial roads first (main roads). Once they feel they have the main roads under control they will start spreading/plowing the secondary roads (side streets). During major storms that require plowing, the snow is pushed to the right side toward the curb or road edge. So if there's any way possible for residents who have on-street parking to park their vehicles off the road, this would make it easier for the trucks to plow and also keep your vehicles from being plowed in. Your cooperation in this matter is always appreciated.

Any questions regarding Town ordinances or snow emergency etiquette may be directed to the Town Snowmen... our dedicated Public Works Department, (540) 347-1858. These guys never get to settle down for a long winter's nap! ■



Attention All Building and Trade Contractors!

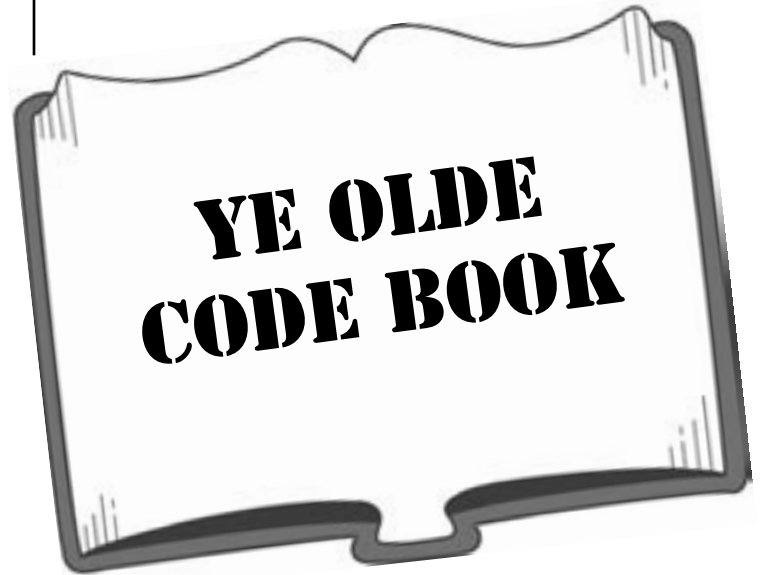
It's time to re-learn everything you thought you knew about how to put a building together. Yes, people in the building trades have now officially entered that period that comes around every three years when the Commonwealth of Virginia adopts updated building and trade codes.

The 2006 edition of the ICC Codes became effective as of May 1, 2008 and builders and trades people have entered that "limbo" time that everyone hates -- that time when the inspectors are trying to enforce the new code and contractors are trying to learn it.

The State of Virginia has always allowed a grace period for the first year after a new edition of the statewide code is adopted. During this time you can construct something under either the new or the previous code. This leaves the inspectors hopping between the new and the old codes, and contractors scratching their heads.

And to make matters worse, as contractors become aware of the new codes, bless their hearts, some of their building projects include a mix of old-code and new-code work! For example, sometimes the plumbing is installed to the old code and the electrical system is installed to the new one.

Fortunately, Virginia has been at the forefront of code development for almost 30 years. Code changes have become increasingly minor in the overall construction of buildings. Six years ago the state experienced several severe storms and hurricanes that did quite a bit of building damage, especially near the coast. These storms brought wall bracing to the attention of code enforcement officials, and added a



new "required" inspection to most localities. As the builders have learned, it is not just about nailing plywood to the framing any more.

Getting Back Up To Speed

How do you get caught up? Alas, do not despair! The Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR) now requires that folks holding trade certifications and contractor's licenses attend a minimum of three hours of training in their field during the years between license renewals. During this training, contractors and trades people are made aware of the changes to the current codes. These code update classes are offered by the Department of Housing and Community Renewal at different localities throughout the state immediately after the new code takes effect, and at most community colleges during the intervening years.

The Town of Warrenton's own building inspector, Bill Mercer, is one of these trainers, and can put local contractors and trades people in touch with organizations that provides this training. Please contact Bob Hale, Warrenton Building Official, for additional information, (540) 347-2405 (rhale@warrentonva.gov). A list of approved trainers is also available on the DPOR web site at:

http://www.dpor.virginia.gov/dporweb/tra_approved_continuing_edu.pdf ■

News From Parks and Rec

Child Care Coming Soon to the WARF

The Warrenton Aquatic and Recreation Facility (WARF) is putting the final touches on its newest addition. Hidden directly off of the aquatic center's fitness room, the WARF's Child Care Room, to be named "Warren's Place" will be a fully functional childcare center available for use by both members and day-pass patrons.

Warren's Place was named after the facility's mascot, Warren the Labrador Retriever. The room will offer a safe and fun place for children ages 2 months to 12 years to play and relax while their parents swim or work out at the WARF. Warren's Place will be equipped with a carpeted kid's play area, TV/DVD, cubbies, toys, cabinets and check-in desk.

As an additional service to its members and patrons, the WARF will also offer a Volunteer Bartering System as a method of staffing Warren's Place. The system is designed to use volunteer resources in specified staffing roles in exchange for reduced and/or free facility use. In other words, in exchange for a participant's volunteer hours, participants will be eligible for these discounts or use of the childcare for their own children.

The creation of Warren's Place comes due to high member feedback. Child care services will give more opportunities for those with children to fully enjoy all the amenities the Warrenton Aquatic and Recreation Facility has to offer. Parents can rest at ease while they swim, take classes or work out, knowing their children are safe and close by. The site of the room is located directly off the facility's Fitness Room for easy access, pick-up and drop-off.

Warren's Place will be open Mondays through Saturdays from 8:30 - 11:30 AM, and will be closed on Sundays.

For more information about Warren's Place's opening date, prices and volunteer programs please visit or call the Front Desk at the WARF, (540) 349-2520.

A Holiday Gift Idea From the WARF!

The Holidays are just around the corner and the WARF has the perfect gift for everyone on your list. The facility is offering holiday gift cards in increments of 5, 10 and 20 visits. There is something at the WARF for everyone, so you can't go wrong with one of these gift cards. Give the gift of health, fitness and fun. Recipients will have access to all amenities at the WARF, including the facility's Fitness Room, Leisure Pool, Competition Pool, Spa and locker rooms.



www.warrentonva.gov



Winter Session Offerings

The WARF is gearing up for the next session of classes with new class offerings and times. The Winter Session, set to start up in January, will be the perfect post-holiday incentive to get in shape and start the year off right. The facility's new Group Fitness Coordinator, Elly Reidel, is hard at work planning a fun, new and exciting lineup of fitness classes and programs. There will be something for everyone no matter your ability or fitness level.

Fitness classes are the perfect option for those who have trouble getting motivated, or for those who enjoy personal interaction. Taking a fitness class is like having your own personal coach to lead and cheer you through your workout. The WARF's fitness instructors are certified instructors who are guaranteed to teach classes that are both fun and beneficial. Space is limited, sign up today!

New Programs at the WARF

In addition to our already popular fitness and water safety programs, new programs have been finding their way to the Warrenton Aquatic and Recreation Center.

FitKidz is a fun-filled, non-competitive, physically active, skill development program for preschool aged children. For schedule information and to register, visit their website, www.fitkids123.com/classes.htm. Birthday party programming is also

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available.

Abakadoodle, the popular national arts education program, is offering art classes for children ages 20 months to 12 years old at the WARF. To learn more about and register for this art program, visit www.abrakadoodle.com/VA02/. Birthday party programming is also available.

Excell dancers are creating a fun dance atmosphere at the WARF. These classes are sure to boost self-esteem, provide enriching physical exercise, and foster freedom of expression through movement. Excell introduces students to a variety of music, rhythm, and movement, expanding their interests and helping them experience the joy in creativity and dance. For schedule and registration information, visit www.excelldancers.com.

If you represent a program or service you would like to share with your neighbors, contact the WARF at (540) 349-2520.

Warrenton Park Improvements

Have you noticed anything different in your Town Parks lately? The Capital Improvement Program (CIP), authorized by Town Council, is being implemented and new playground structures are being installed at both Gold Cup and Eva Walker Parks. Playgrounds are essential to the wellbeing of people of all ages. These new amenities are intended to help the children of our community stay active and healthy. We invite you to take pride in Warrenton's parks and witness for yourself the fun being experienced.

Park Partners

Attention business people in Warrenton! Would you enjoy the benefit of being associated with the Town of Warrenton on a broader scale? Become a Park Partner! Partners believe in the fundamental missions of the Town and its Parks and Recreation Department. Partners work side by side with us to meet our big-picture goals of building a healthy, active community. With your investment in us, we can enhance the level of service we can provide.

Our Park Partner Packages can combine Warrenton Aquatic and Recreation Facility (WARF) memberships for business employees, WARF advertising space, program or event sponsorship, and legacy gifts in kind for enhancements to Town properties and facilities. For more information, contact Ralph Baird at (540) 349-2520. ■

Fire Hydrant Maintenance

The Town of Warrenton Utilities Section is currently performing its yearly maintenance on the Town's fire hydrants. There are approximately 900 fire hydrants in the water transmission and distribution system. Each hydrant is inspected by a qualified person, then the inspection date is recorded. The hydrant is then re-inspected one year from that date.

As you may have seen on the news, other jurisdictions in our regions have a number of fire hydrants out of service. Obviously this creates a safety concern and is of vital importance to local fire departments. The Town of Warrenton is proud to say that we currently do not have any hydrants out of service.

The Town of Warrenton works closely with our local Fire Department to keep them informed of any fire hydrants that are out of service. Normally when this occurs it is a result of a hydrant being struck by a vehicle, damaged during water theft, or contractors illegally using the hydrants. All hydrants taken out of service are bagged with a special "out of service bag" and repairs are performed as soon as possible.

The primary use of a fire hydrant is to supply water to the fire department in the event of a fire. Secondary use is for the flushing of the water system by the Town staff, with some other minimal circumstances approved by the Town of Warrenton.

Here's a little fire hydrant trivia for you. In the early days the water lines were constructed of wood. The common method of obtaining water from these wooden lines in the event of a fire, was to bore a hole in the wooden pipe allowing the water to flow freely into the ditch. They would then pump from the accumulation in the ditch to extinguish the fire. After the fire was extinguished, a wooden plug was driven into the hole to stop the flow of water. The location of these plugs were marked by some means. These wooden plugs were commonly referred to as "fire plugs," a term that persists today. ■



Happy New Year!





Town Office Hours and Telephone Numbers

Town Office Hours are 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

The area code is 540 unless otherwise noted.

Finance Department.....	347-1102
Inspections	347-2405
Maintenance Shop.....	347-1858
Police Department	
Office of the Chief	347-1105
Police Station	347-1107
Non-emergency	347-1100
Emergency	911
Planning and Zoning	347-2405
Recreation Department (Aquatic Center)	349-2520
Recycling	347-1858
Sewage Plant.....	347-1104
Town Hall.....	347-1101
Town Manager	347-4505
Utilities.....	347-6574
Water Bills	347-2678
Water Plant.....	347-1103
TTD/TTY	1-800-828-1120

**After Hours Water and Sewer Emergency
347-1100**



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